

REMARKS

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-20 based on Matheson and Hussein, alone or in combination, Applicants assert that such references fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of the original claim set. Nonetheless, in an effort to expedite the present application through to allowance, Applicants have amended the independent claims to further clarify the inventive subject matter.

For example, amended claim 1 now recites a method of managing at least one collaborative process performed in accordance with a first entity and at least a second entity, the method comprising the steps of: obtaining information associated with the at least one collaborative process used to design and develop a given product; and based on at least a portion of the obtained information, dynamically maintaining an information structure in the form of a context pyramid structure representative of the collaborative process so as to assist at least one of the first entity and the second entity in managing at least a portion of the collaborative process; wherein the context pyramid structure provides a representation of the status of the collaborative process including one or more global and local tasks, and comprises results of a time offset calculation, a checkpoint calculation and a potential energy level calculation for the one or more global and local tasks involved in the collaborative process.

While Matheson discloses a collaborative session recording model and Hussein discloses a collaborative agent based system, neither reference alone or in combination discloses a context pyramid structure that provides a representation of the status of the collaborative process including one or more global and local tasks, and comprises results of a time offset calculation, a checkpoint calculation and a potential energy level calculation for the one or more global and local tasks involved in the collaborative process, as recited in claim 1 and the other independent claims.

The Office Action points to Figs. 3-5 of Matheson with regard to a “pyramid structure,” however, it is clear that none of the structures shown in Matheson are pyramid structures, no less context pyramid structures. Furthermore, nowhere do Matheson or Hussein disclose any type of representation that comprises the status of the collaborative process including one or more global and local tasks, and comprises results of a time offset calculation, a checkpoint calculation and a

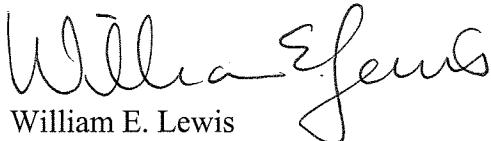
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potential energy level calculation for the one or more global and local tasks involved in the collaborative process, as recited in claim 1 and the other independent claims.

Applicants assert that one or more of the dependent claims recite patentable subject matter in their own rights.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-7, 9-12 and 15-20 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the various rejections.

Respectfully submitted,



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